

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 03213 190933Z
ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 HA-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 ICA-01
PA-01 /017 W

-----076129 191030Z /11

P 190818Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0553

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3213

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS SHUM KS US
SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY ABOUT CONVICTED STUDENTS

REF: A. STATE 97135, B. STATE 98502

1. EMBASSY WILL CONVEY CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S CONCERN ABOUT WELFARE OF CONVICTED STUDENTS MENTIONED IN REFTELS A AND B TO APPROPRIATE ROKG OFFICIALS.

2. IN REGARD REFTEL A, EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEES ATTENDED SOME SESSIONS OF TRIALS BUT DID NOT NOTICE SIGNS OF POOR PHYSICAL CONDITION ON PART OF DEFENDANTS. OF COURSE, GIVEN COURT ROOM CONDITIONS, FAMILY MEMBERS WOULD LIKELY BE BETTER ABLE TO DETECT SWELLING OF FACES OF STUDENTS THAN OUTSIDERS. WE CHECKED WITH KNCC AND WITH KNCC HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ON APRIL 18, AND BOTH ORGANIZATIONS STATED THAT THEY BELIEVED STUDENTS IN QUESTION WERE IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION. THEY HAD NO (RPT NO) REPORTS THAT STUDENTS HAD BEEN MISTREATED. THEY NOTED THAT KNCC EXPECTS TO LAUNCH APPEAL TO ROKG SOON FOR RELEASE OF ABOUT 45 STUDENTS CONVICTED FOR DEMONSTRATIONS TOWARD END OF LAST YEAR, A GROUP WHICH WOULD INCLUDE STUDENTS MENTIONED BY CONGRESSMAN FRASER.

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 03213 190933Z

3. EMBASSY NOTES ONLY OTHER REFERENCE TO SITUATION DESCRIBED IN REFTEL A OCCURRED IN LETTER FROM REV. JAMES SINNOT TO ASST. SECRETARY DERIAN ON FEBRUARY 18, 1978. SOURCE OF INFORMATION WAS LOCAL FOREIGN MISSIONARY. EMBASSY IS TRYING TO CONTACT MISSIONARY IN DISCREET MANNER TO OBTAIN HIS LATEST INFORMATION ON SITUATION. MISSIONARY IS LOCATED SOME DISTANCE FROM SEOUL AND SOME

TIME MAY BE REQUIRED BEFORE WE CAN ARRANGE INTERVIEW.
SNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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